

They do not add any further limitations and thus will not require a further search or consideration. In the event the Examiner does not concur, these amendments are proper as placing the claims in better form for appeal before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. The specification has been amended to cure inadvertent typographical errors and informalities. No new matter has been added to the instant application as originally filed. Reconsideration of the application in view of these amendments and the following discussion is hereby requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mirashrafi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,574,934 (Mirashrafi), in view of Andersen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,674,003 (Andersen), and Jamsa et al., "Internet Programming" (Jamsa).

In order for a reference or a group of references to render an invention obvious, it is axiomatic that at least all of the features in the claims be disclosed in the cited reference or references.

Mirashrafi, Andersen and Jamsa do not disclose, teach or suggest "a listen string containing an application signature, an application signal type and an application signal port" (Applicant's claims 1, 8-10 and 17) either individually or in combination. As stated by the Examiner, "Mirashrafi et al. does not disclose listen string containing an application signal port/socket" (Office Action dated 2/17/00, p. 3). Furthermore, there has been no showing that Mirashrafi teaches or suggests a listen string as claimed by Applicant.

Andersen also fails to disclose, teach or suggest a listen string having an application signal port. Although Andersen discloses that a remote site application listens for incoming connections on created sockets (Andersen, col. 7, lines 64-66),

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such a feature differs significantly from Applicant's claimed listen string because it does not actually include a listen string. The remote site application of Andersen simply "listens" for an incoming connection on an already created socket without any regard to a specified application signature, application signal type of application signal port. Thus, Andersen fails to disclose, teach or suggest a listen string containing an application signal port.

Jamsa also fails to disclose, teach or suggest a listen string having an application signal port. Jamsa describes the configuration and use of sockets in network communications. There has been no showing that Jamsa discloses, teaches or suggests a listen string having an application signal port. If the Examiner does not agree with Applicant's reading of Jamsa, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide Applicant with a copy of page 163 of Jamsa. Page 163 of Jamsa was missing from the copy sent to Applicant.

Because Mirashrafi, Andersen and Jamsa fail to disclose, teach or suggest a listen string containing an application signal port, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art in view of Mirashrafi, Andersen and Jamsa at the time of the invention, whether taken singularly or in combination.

The dependent claims not specifically addressed are allowable for at least the same reasons stated above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicant submits that the section 103(a) rejections are overcome. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the section 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

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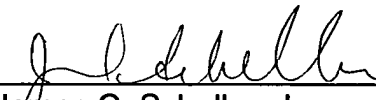
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. In the alternative, Applicant requests that the amendments presented herein be entered, as the amendments at least place the case in better position for appeal. Please charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 4/17/2000

By:   
James C. Scheller, Jr.  
Reg. No. 31,195

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